

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1 1. A system in a computing environment for generating a representation of business policy,
2 comprising:

3 means for storing at least one compilation of business rules comprising a plurality of rules
4 available to be selected for inclusion in a business contract;

5 means for storing at least one policy set containing parameters corresponding to selected
6 rules from the compilation of business rules;

7 means for generating links between the compilation of business rules and the policy set to
8 generate specific rules to be embodied in the business contract; and

9 means for interlocking the compilation of business rules, the policy set and the links.

1 2. The system as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

2 mean for storing at least one product list filter for generating a list of a specified subset of
3 products from a master list of products; and

4 means for generating links between the product list filter, the policy set and the master list
5 of products.

1 3. The system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the product list filter comprises a plurality of tiers,
2 each tier generating a list of a different subset of products.

1 4. The system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the business contract comprises dynamic elements
2 which can be altered without modifying the business contract.

1 5. The system as defined in Claim 4, in which the product list filter is a dynamic element.

1 6. The system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the business contract is locked after interlocking
2 contract elements and the links.

- 1 7. A method of generating a representation of business policy, comprising the steps of:
2 a. storing at least one compilation of business rules comprising a plurality of rules
3 available to be selected for inclusion in a business contract;
4 b. storing at least one policy set containing parameters corresponding to selected rules
5 from the compilation of business rules;
6 c. generating links between the compilation of business rules and the policy set to
7 generate specific rules to be embodied in the business contract; and
8 d. interlocking the compilation of business rules, the policy set and the links.

- 1 8. The method as defined in Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:
2 e. storing at least one product list filter for generating a list of a specified subset of
3 products from a master list of product; and
4 f. generating links between the product list filter, the policy set and the master list of
5 products.

- 1 9. The method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the product list filter comprises a plurality of
2 tiers, each tier generating a list of a different subset of products.

- 1 10. The method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the business contract comprises dynamic
2 elements which can be altered without modifying the business contract.

- 1 11. The method as defined in Claim 10, in which the product list filter is a dynamic content
2 element.

- 1 12. The method as defined in Claim 7, wherein the business contract is locked after interlocking
2 contract elements and the links.

1 13. A system for governing conduct of business activities over a computer network pursuant to
2 a business contract comprising a predefined set of business rules, comprising:

3 a communications interface for receiving information; and

4 means for storing the business contract;

5 means for receiving the information; and

6 means for referencing the business rules in the business contract to process the information.

1 14. The system as defined in Claim 13, further comprising means for generating at least one
2 document processed according to the business rules in the business contract.

1 15. The system as defined in Claim 13, wherein the communications interface displays selected
2 information based on the business rules in the business contract.

1 16. The system as defined in Claim 15, wherein the business contract contains representation
2 criteria comprising product selection criteria or products exclusion criteria, or both, and the
3 communications interface displays a filtered products list comprising a subset of products from a
4 master product list.

1 17. A method of conducting business activities over a computer network pursuant to a business
2 contract comprising a predefined set of business rules, comprising the steps of:

3 a. storing the business rules;

4 b. receiving information via a communications interface; and

5 c. referencing the business rules in the business contract to process the information.

1 18. The method as defined in Claim 17, comprising the further step of:

2 d. generating at least one document processed according to the business rules in the
3 business contract.

1 19. The method as defined in Claim 18, wherein the communications interface displays selected
2 information based on business rules in the business contract.

1 20. The method as defined in Claim 19, further comprising the step of:

- 2 e. providing the business contract with representation criteria comprising product
3 selection criteria or products exclusion criteria, or both, wherein the communications
4 interface displays a filtered products list comprising a subset of products from a
5 master product list.